



BLBA BULLETIN NO. 12-02

Issue Date: February 8, 2012

Expiration Date: Indefinite

Subject: Increase of Mileage Limit on Treatment Travel

Background: The Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation (DCMWC) has capped the mileage on treatment travel at 150 miles roundtrip and 75 miles one way for many years. When a beneficiary submits an OWCP-957 for reimbursement for more than 150 miles, the bill payment contractor suspends the bill for review by the Medical Audit and Operations Section or by the District Office. Experience with the central bill payment process has shown that this limitation has led to many unnecessary requests for review. Other OWCP programs allow 200 miles roundtrip without authorization from a supervisor, and DCMWC has determined that our allowable reimbursable mileage should be consistent with other OWCP programs.

Purpose: To maintain consistency among OWCP programs for the maximum treatment travel distance without review.

Applicability: Appropriate DCMWC and contract personnel.

Please contact Debbie Thurston in BSRP at thurston.debra@dol.gov if you have any questions.

Disposition: Retain this Bulletin until its expiration date or its incorporation into the Black Lung Benefits Procedure Manual.

Action: Beginning immediately, treatment travel of up to 200 miles round trip and 100 miles one way is authorized without a supervisor's concurrence. Travel in excess of 200 miles will be referred to the Medical Audit and Operations Section or the appropriate District Office for review.

STEVEN D. BRESKIN
Director

Distribution: All supervisors, claims examiners, workers' compensation specialists, and workers' compensation assistants